

### COMMON ASSESSMENTS 2026

Please note that SACAI common assessments are compulsory and must be administered under strict examination writing conditions to ensure standardisation across all institutions. To maintain consistency and fairness, marking guideline discussions will be held for each paper. It is mandatory that all educators responsible for marking the relevant subject and paper attend these sessions. Following the discussions, a final, standardised marking guideline will be issued, and no alternative answers outside of this agreed guideline will be accepted.

One of the main objectives of the compulsory common examinations is to immerse learners from Grade 10 into strict exam writing conditions. This will enable them to determine the academic standards expected during the final NSC exam, as well as to not experience severe exam anxiety for the first time.

Please refer to the following Annexures:

Annexure A: [SACAI Examination Protocol](#)

Annexure B: [Marking Guideline Schedule](#)

### REGISTRATION OF Gr 10 & 11 CANDIDATES DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

It is vital to note that the FET Phase is a 3-year phase, i.e. Grade 11 builds on grade 10 and likewise, Grade 12 builds on Grade 11. Therefore, it is imperative that learners must cover the full curriculum and comply with all the promotion requirements. Umalusi insists that SACAI must ensure that all learners truly belong in a specific grade and that institutions comply with CAPS curriculum coverage and promotion requirements.

Educational institutions carry a fundamental responsibility to ensure that all learners admitted into the system meet the necessary requirements and that their supporting documentation is authentic, valid, and verified. This process is essential to maintaining the integrity, credibility, and quality of the education system.

Before enrolling any learner, institutions must carefully review all submitted documents, including report cards, transfer letters, and identification records. Where documentation is incomplete or unavailable, institutions are required to establish the reasons for such absence through appropriate engagement with the learner, parents, or guardians. This may include confirming prior schooling history, identifying gaps in education, and ensuring that learners are placed in the correct academic level based on reliable evidence.

By exercising due diligence during the admission process, institutions not only protect the integrity of their records but also ensure that learners are supported appropriately according to their academic background and educational needs.

Institutions are allowed to register Gr 10 & 11 candidates throughout the year, provided that a thorough due diligence is conducted.

### **1. Learners with previous term report cards with no outstanding SBA marks**

These are learners who:

- Attended school earlier in the current academic year, and
- Can provide valid report cards for one or more completed terms.

#### **Process for these learners:**

- Verify the authenticity of the report card(s).
- Confirm the learner's previous school and academic performance.
- Place the learner in the appropriate grade and subject stream based on verified results.

### **2. Learners with previous term report cards with less than satisfactory SBA marks**

These are learners who:

- Attended school earlier in the current academic year, and
- Can provide valid report cards for one or more completed terms.
- But, have outstanding or less than satisfactory SBA marks

#### **Process for these learners:**

- Verify the authenticity of the report card(s).
- Contact the previous school.
- Confirm the learner's previous school and academic performance.
- Place the learner in the appropriate grade and subject stream based on verified results.
- An SBA catch-up programme (Learner Support Programme) must be drafted and signed by the learner and the parents or guardians to ensure that the learner will be able submit a complete set of SBA marks by the end of the year.

### **3. Learners who did not attend school regularly, or not at all during the current year**

These are learners who:

- Were not enrolled during the current school year or attended unsatisfactory, and
- Are unable to provide a report card for the current year.

#### **Process for these learners:**

- Establish the reason for the absence of schooling (e.g., relocation, health issues, socio-economic challenges). (Note: Absence without a valid excuse that exceeds 20 school days is seriously frowned on)
- Conduct a thorough assessment or placement evaluation where necessary.
- Ensure that the learner is placed at an appropriate academic level to support success, even if it implies, placing the learner in an earlier grade.
- An SBA catch-up programme (Learner Support Programme) must be drafted and signed by the learner and the parents or guardians to ensure that the learner will be able submit a complete set of SBA marks by the end of the year.

## ENROLLING LEARNERS FOR MULTIPLE GRADES

SACAI has become aware of instances where candidates are enrolled for subjects on different grade levels or being enrolled in grade 10 and 11 for only the subjects failed in the previous academic year.

Following consultation with Umalusi, it must be emphasised that the NPPPR does not provide for the subject or modular repetition of a grade across multiple academic years.

The CAPS curriculum does not provide for a modular approach. Therefore, a learner who does not meet the promotion or progression requirements, is required to complete the grade in full, offering all required subjects again. A learner must satisfy the promotion or progression criteria for a grade before being promoted to the subsequent grade.

## GR 12 SBA

### Umalusi Moderation

SACAI would like to inform all institutions that Umalusi will conduct the moderation of School-Based Assessment (SBA) in two phases. Phase 1 will take place during July, and Phase 2 will be conducted during October.

For each phase, the moderation sample will comprise eight subjects for SBA moderation, as well as two subjects with a practical component for the moderation of Practical Assessment Tasks (PAT), and two language subjects for oral assessment.

Further details and specific requirements will be communicated to institutions as soon as official confirmation is received.

### Final SBA Mark Submission: 02 November 2026

SACAI herewith informs all institutions that the final deadline for the submission of all the Grade 12 SBA marks is **02 November 2026**, as this will ensure alignment with Umalusi's submission timelines. Institutions are strongly urged to adhere strictly to this deadline, as late submissions may negatively impact the finalisation of candidates' results.

Institutions are further reminded that the Ministerial Concession by die Minister of Basic Education (7 June 2023) will only be applied under exceptional and valid circumstances, and strictly subject to the following conditions:

- The candidate must have been registered for seven subjects for the examination session.
- The candidate must have written all examination papers, with only one outstanding PAT mark. Concessions will not be granted if two or more PAT components are outstanding.
- There must be no other outstanding SBA marks.
- Where approved, the candidate will be awarded a zero-mark ("0") mark for the outstanding PAT component instead of an incomplete code (777/999).
- Written consent from both the candidate and the parent/guardian must be obtained and submitted, confirming acceptance of the 0 mark.

Institutions are reminded that this concession is not automatic and must be carefully motivated and clearly justified. Every effort must be made to ensure the complete and timely submission of all SBA and PAT marks.

In addition, SACAI will continue the practice of issuing warning letters to candidates with outstanding SBA components as a measure to emphasise the seriousness of compliance and to encourage the timely submission of all required assessment components.